

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed March 17, 2008. Currently, claims 12, 13, 15-23, and 25-31 remain pending. Claims 12, 13, 15-23, and 25-31 have been rejected. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 12, 13, 15-23, and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Boyle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,939,362), hereinafter Boyle. After careful review, Applicant must respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). (See MPEP § 2131). Nowhere does Boyle appear to teach or suggest, "forming a first section of a filter material by masking a larger section of a filter material according to a predetermined pattern and removing the excess filter material outside of the predetermined pattern with at least one of a laser beam and a solvent, the first section having a first edge and a second edge; contacting at least a portion of the first edge with at least a portion of the second edge; bonding together the at least a portion of the first edge with at least a portion of the second edge, such that the first section is formed into a sack-like shape.", as recited in claim 12.

Instead, Boyle appears to teach a filtering element in the form of a cone or similar shape formed by blow-mold technology. As a result, the conical filtering element of Boyle would have only a single edge capable of bonding and any bonding between first and second portions of that edge would appear to close the filter mouth rendering it unsuitable for the purpose of filtering debris. Boyle does not appear to teach or disclose masking or otherwise trimming the filter material with a laser or solvent. Further, the filter element of Boyle appears to be preformed in a sack-like shape and so does not anticipate a bonding operation to form the sack-like shape. The specification and claims of Boyle do not appear to mention a solvent and only mentions the use of a laser in

conjunction with the filter material in the context creating perfusion openings in the filter material. In view of the above, Boyle does not appear to anticipate the invention of claim 12 and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Similarly, Boyle, having failed to teach or disclose the method of making a first section of the filter of the pending invention does not appear to anticipate making a first and a second section of a filter by the method of the invention or even a filter having two sections. Accordingly, Boyle does not appear to anticipate the invention of claim 22 and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, for similar reasons as well as others, claims 13, 15-21, 23, and 25-31, which depend from claims 12 and 22 respectively, and include significant additional limitations, are believed to be not anticipated by Boyle and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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